Systematic and comprehensive survey of disabled

122. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no systematic and comprehensive survey has been carried out to establish the number of people in our country who are disabled due to visual, hearing, speech, physical or mental problems;

(b) whether the rough estimate of Government is quoted as five per cent of the population being disabled which is 50 million people and only five per cent of this population are covered by Government schemes; and

(c) if so, what arc Government's plans to cover all the 50 million disabled people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) has conducted a National Sample Survey 47th Round July-December, .1991 to collect information on the number of persons with disabilities. Based on the sample survey of NSSO carried out in 1991 approximately 5% of the population is estimated to be suffering from some kind of disability. Besides the ongoing schemes of the Government for the welfare of the disabled, various concessions/facilities are also being provided to persons with disabilities by Central Government/ States/Union territories. With a view to expand services & have greater coverage, the Government have recently approved several schemes specifically for wider coverage and holistic rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. These include;-

(1) Setting up of Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) in different parts of the country to provide services for different kinds of disabilities as outreach extension centres of the National Institutes in the disability sector;

(2) Setting up of Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with spinal injuries and other orthopaedic disabilities as a Central Sponsored Scheme with Centre and State share on 90:10 basis to strengthen the services.

(3) Setting up of Auxiliary Production Centres of Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) to expand the

production capacity and for easy availability of quality aids and appliances.

(4) A new four tier-scheme namely, National Programme for Rehabilitation of persons with Disabilities has been approved in the State sector for implementation in order to create infrastructure at State/District/Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped.

(5) 107 districts have been identified for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services at the doorsteps of persons with disabilities. Services identified include setting up of composites fitment and rehabilitation centres in collaboration between the National Institute/ Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India/District Rehabilitation Centres under the Central Government and the District administration/State Government respectively.

Bungling of lakhs of rupees by NIOD, Calcutta

123. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV; Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Institute of Ortohopaedically Disabled, Calcutta has bungle lakhs of rupees by launching a project without getting the approval of Standing finance Committee of her Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of action taken by Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir. No such mis-utilisation of funds have come to the notice of the Ministry.

(b) and (c) does not arise.

Meeting between leaders of Hindu and Christen communities

124. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the National Minority Commission had convened a meeting between community leaders of the Hindu and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.